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reeds. The eye is deceived in a similar manner when the bird is crouching against a tree-stump at the river side. Mr. J. E. Harting thinks that the curious attitudes adopted by the bird, on finding itself observed, are assumed in the exercise of the instinct of self-preservation. He mentions a similar habit, observed and described by Mr. W. H. Hudson, in the case of South American Little Heron, which frequents the borders of the La Plata, and is occasionally found in the reed-beds scattered over the pampas. Without the aid of dogs it was found impossible to secure any specimens of this bird, even after making the spot where one had alighted.—*Nature*.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Astronomy and Astro-Physics will hereafter be called the *Astrophysical Journal* and will be published from the University of Chicago, under the editorship of Profs. Payne and Keeler and a board of the leading men of science in this department.

A monthly *Magazine of Travel*, somewhat practical and popular in character, will hereafter be published from 10 Astor Place, New York.

The Aeronautical Annual for 1895, soon to be published by W. B. Clarke & Co., Boston, will contain reprints of some early treatises on aeronautics, among them da Vinci's *Treatise on the Flight of Birds*, Sir George Gayley's *Aerial Navigation* (1809), *A Treatise upon the Art of Flying*, by Thomas Walker (1810), and Franklin's aeronautical correspondence.—*Critic*.

P. Blakiston, Son & Co. announce *The Dynamics of Life*, by William R. Gowers, M. D., of London.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

THE TEXAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

DECEMBER 31, 1894.

DR. HALSTED, President, in the chair.

JAMES E. THOMPSON; *Address*.

DAVID CERNA; *The phonetic arithmetic of the ancient Mexicans*.

WILLIAM KEILLER; *Descriptive anatomy of the heart*.

THOMAS FLAVIN; *Developmental anatomy and pathology of the kidneys*.

THOMAS U. TAYLOR; *Present need of engineering education in the South*.

ROBERT A. THOMPSON; *The storm-water storage system of irrigation*.

T. H. BRYANT, *Acting Secretary*.

NEW BOOKS.

Progress in Flying Machines. O. CHANUTE. New York, The American Engineer and Railroad Journal. 1894. Pp. iv+308.

Lectures on the Darwinian Theory. A. M. MARSHALL. Edited by C. F. MARSHALL. London, D. Nutt; New York, Macmillan & Co. 1894. Pp. xx+236. \$2.25.

Sea and Land. Features of Coasts and Oceans with Special Reference to the Life of Man. N. S. SHALER. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1894. \$2.50.

Text-book of Invertebrate Morphology. J. F. McMURRICH. New York, Henry Holt & Co. 1894. Pp. 294. \$4.00.

The Planet Earth. An Astronomical Introduction to Geography. RICHARD A. GREGORY. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1894. Pp. viii+105. 60c.

Physiology for Beginners. M. FOSTER and LEWIS E. SHORE. New York and London, Macmillan & Co. 1894. Pp. ix+241. 75c.

The Rise and Development of Organic Chemistry. CARL SCHORLEMMER. Revised edition, edited by ARTHUR SMITHELLS. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1894. Pp. ix+280.

Woman's Share in Primitive Culture. O. T. MASON. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1894. Pp. xiii+295.